

F-9-R-12 Southwest Montana Fishery

Job II. Stream Channel Alteration Inventory.

The objective is to describe the kind and amount of stream channel alteration to trout streams in the management area. Natural streams containing pools, riffles, and undercut banks provide the habitat desirable for "wild" trout populations. Wild trout provide the majority of fish available to anglers in our streams. Each year, more and more Montana trout streams are being gutted and ruined through mans activities. Channel alterations were measured on 13 Montana streams in 1962; ^{five} ~~four~~ of these were in the management area. In all cases, a greater number of trout were found in natural stream sections than in altered sections. The Shields River was added to the program in 1963, and over 20 percent of the stream had been altered with most of the damage caused by agricultural activities. Again, ^{Forty times more} ~~a far greater number of~~ trout were found in natural stream sections than in altered sections.

Other streams will be added to this type of survey as deemed necessary ~~which will also~~ strengthen our present stream preservation policy.